

University of California, Santa Barbara
Department of Religious Studies
RS 206E: Seminar in South Asian Religious Studies: Hindu Tantra

Spring 2011
W 6:00 – 8:50

Professor David White
HSSB 3041

Course Organization and Requirements: Students must attend all seminar meetings. Meetings will be divided into two parts: 1) discussions of the readings (1.5 hours); and 2) a one-hour lecture by Professor White. Beginning April 13, seminar discussions will be led by students in groups of three. These students will pre-circulate, via email, and **no later than the Sunday before our Wednesday class meeting**, questions and points for discussion based on the readings.

The writing assignment for the seminar will be a term paper of 25 pages in length that will treat of a thematic or phenomenon of Hindu Tantra, ideally from a comparative perspective. The data presented and analyzed in the paper shall support an argument for a particular theoretical or methodological approach to Hindu Tantra. Due June 10.

Term papers should include material from at least **four** of the following sources, and draw on articles, books, and chapters by both Indian and Western authors, in both Indic and Western languages:

1. ethnographies, colonial and post-colonial (state gazetteers; *Tribes and Castes*)
2. art historical journals, series volumes (*Artibus Asiae*; Brill Studies in South Asian Culture)
3. non-scriptural, medieval literature on Tantra (*Kathāsarītsāgara*, *Mālatī-Mādhava*)
4. Sanskrit encyclopedias and compendia (*Manasollāsa*, *Śarṅgadharapaddhati*)
5. Hindu Tantric scriptures
6. Buddhist or Jain Tantric sources
7. epigraphy
8. sources on Hindu Tantra from outside South Asia (Indonesia, Cambodia, Inner Asia)
9. secondary source material (monographs, articles) on Tantra, medieval South Asia

Books for Purchase:

Ronald Davidson, *Indian Esoteric Buddhism: A Social History of the Tantric Movement* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2002)

David Gordon White, *The Alchemical Body: Siddha Traditions in Medieval India* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996)

_____, *Kiss of the Yoginī: “Tantric Sex” in its South Asian Contexts* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003)

_____, *Sinister Yogis* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009)

Readings in Course Reader for Purchase at The Alternative copy shop, Isla Vista:

Douglas Renfrew Brooks, "Encountering the Hindu 'Other': Tantrism and the Brahmins of South India," in *JAAR* 60:3 (Fall 1992): 405-36.

Robert L. Brown, "A Magic Pill: The Protection of Cambodia by the Recitation of the Vīṇāśikhatantra in A.D. 802," unpublished typescript.

Jacob Dalton, "How Dhāraṇīs WERE Proto-Tantric: Liturgies, Ritual Manuals, and the Origins of the Tantras," unpublished typescript.

Gavin Flood, "Purification of the Body," in *Tantra in Practice*, ed. David Gordon White (Princeton University Press, 2000), pp. 509-20.

Niels Gutschow, "The Aṣṭamātrkā and Navadurgā of Bhaktapur. Notions about 'Place' and 'Territory'," in Axel Michaels, Cornelia Vogelsanger, and Annette Wilke, eds., *Wild Goddesses in India and Nepal* (Bern: Peter Lang, 1996), pp. 191-215.

Dory Heilijger-Seelens, *The System of the Five Cakras in Kubjikāmatatantra 14-16* (Groningen: Egbert Forsten, 1994).

Adelheid Hermann-Pfandt, "The Good Woman's Shadow: Some aspects of the Dark Nature of Dākinīs and Śākinīs in Hinduism," in Axel Michaels, Cornelia Vogelsanger, and Annette Wilke, eds., *Wild Goddesses in India and Nepal* (Bern: Peter Lang, 1996), pp. 39-70.

Ram Kumar Rai, *Dāmara Tantra* (Varanasi: Prachya Prakashan, 1988).

Robin Rhinehart and Tony K. Stewart, "The Anonymous *Āgama Prakāśa*: Preface to a Nineteenth-Century Gujarati Polemic," in *Tantra in Practice*, ed. David Gordon White (Princeton University Press, 2000), pp. 266-84.

Alexis Sanderson, "Purity and power among the Brahmins of Kashmir," in *The Category of the person. Anthropology, philosophy, history*, ed. Michael Carrithers, Steven Collins, Steven Lukes (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985): 191-216.

_____, "Śaivism and the Tantric Tradition," in *The World's Religions*, ed. Stewart Sutherland et al. (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1988), pp. 660-704.

_____, "Religion and the State: Saiva Officials in the Territory of the King's Brahmanical Chaplain," *Indo-Iranian Journal* 47 (2004), pp. 229-300.

Lilian Silburn, *Kuṇḍalinī, Energy of the Depths* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1988).

David Snellgrove, *Indo-Tibetan Buddhism. Indian Buddhists & Their Tibetan Successors* (Boston: Shambhala, 1987).

Judit Törzsök, "The Doctrine of Magical Female Spirits. A Critical Edition of Selected Chapters of the *Siddhayoḡeśvarīmata*," PhD dissertation, Oxford University, 1999.

Shinichi Tsuda, "Cult of Śmaśāna, the realities of Tantrism," in Teun Goudriaan, ed., *The Sanskrit Tradition and Tantrism* (Leiden: Brill, 1990), pp. 96-108.

Hugh Urban, *The Economics of Ecstasy: Tantra, Secrecy and Power in Colonial Bengal* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001).

_____, "Matrix of Power: Tantra, Kingship, and Sacrifice in the Worship of Mother Goddess Kāmākhya," *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, n.s. 31:3 (Dec. 2008), pp. 500-33.

David Gordon White, "At the Mandala's Dark Fringe: Possession and Protection in Tantric Bhairava Cults," in David Haberman and Laurie Patton, eds., *Notes from a Mandala: Essays in Honor of Wendy Doniger* (University of Delaware Press: 2009), pp. 200-23.

_____, "Bhairava," *Brill Encyclopedia of Hinduism* (Leiden: Brill, 2010) 1:485-90.

_____, "Filthy Amulets," English-language translation of "Amulettes et lambeaux divins: 'Superstition', vraie 'religion' et 'science' pure à la lumière de la démonologie indienne," in Caterina Guenzi and Inès Zupanov, eds., *Divines remèdes: Médecine et religion en Asie du Sud* (= *Puruṣārtha* 27 [2008]), pp. 135-63.

- _____, "Hindu Tantra," *Brill Encyclopedia of Hinduism* (Leiden: Brill, 2011), pre-publication page proofs, pp. 1-15.
- _____, "Tantra in Practice: Mapping a Tradition," in idem., ed., *Tantra in Practice* (Princeton University Press, 2000), pp. 3-38.
- _____, "Yogic and Political Power among the Nāth Siddhas of North India," in Peter Flügel and Gustaf Hartmann, eds., *Asceticism and Power in Asia* (London: Curzon Press, 2011).
- _____, "Yoginī," *Brill Encyclopedia of Hinduism* (Leiden: Brill, 2010) 1:823-28.

Schedule of Seminar Meetings

- March 30 Introduction
- April 6 Defining and Classifying (the) Tantra(s)
- Brooks, "Encountering the Hindu 'Other'"
 Rinehart and Stewart, "Anonymous *Āgama Prakāśa*"
 Sanderson, "Purity and Power"
 White, "Hindu Tantra"
 White, "Tantra in Practice: Mapping a Tradition"
 White, *Kiss of the Yoginī*, pp. xi-xv, 1-22, 267-72
- April 13 Emergence of Tantric Demonology and the Yoginī Cults
- Dalton, "Dhāraṇīs"
 Hermann-Pfandt, "Good Woman's Shadow"
 Rai, *Dāmara Tantra*
 Törzsök, *Doctrine*, pp. 107-11, 149-51, 171-74
 Tsuda, "Cult of Śmaśāna"
 White, *Kiss of the Yoginī*, pp. 27-66, 188-95
 _____, "Filthy Amulets"
 _____, "Yoginī"
- April 20 Tantric Pantheons
- Desai, *Religious Imagery*, pp. 81-148
 Gutschow, "Aṣṭamātrkā and Navadurgā"
 Sanderson, "Śaivism and the Tantric Tradition"
 Slusser, *Nepala Mandala*, pp. 213-39, 307-49
 White, "At the Maṇḍala's Dark Fringe"
 _____, "Bhairava"
- April 27 Sources for Tantric Systems of Knowledge
- White, *Alchemical Body*, pp. 15-77
 White, *Kiss of the Yoginī*, pp. 234-45
 White, *Sinister Yogis*, pp. 38-197

- May 4 Tantric Polities
- Brown, "A Magic Pill"
Davidson, *Indian Esoteric Buddhism*, pp. 73-91, 113-68
Sanderson, "Religion and the State"
Urban, "Matrix of Power"
White, *Kiss of the Yoginī*, pp. 123-59
_____, *Sinister Yogis*, pp. 220-31
_____, "Yogic and Political Power"
- May 11 Tantric Virtuosi
- Davidson, *Indian Esoteric Buddhism*, pp. 277-335
White, *Alchemical Body*, pp. 1-14, 101-22, 222-40, 294-302
White, *Kiss of the Yoginī*, pp. 160-87, 245-57
White, *Sinister Yogis*, pp. 1-37, 198-220, 231-54
- May 18 (Micro)cosmology
- Flood, "Purification of the Body"
Heilijger-Seelens, *System of Five Cakras*, pp. 16-38; 225-43
Urban, *Economics of Ecstasy*, pp. 137-57
White, *Alchemical Body*, pp. 218-61
_____, *Kiss of the Yoginī*, pp. 219-34
_____, "On the Magnitude of the Yogic Body"
- May 25 Power Substances
- Schoterman, *Yonitantra*, pp. 18-32
Silburn, *Kundalinī*, pp. 157-205
Snellgrove, *Indo-Tibetan Buddhism*, pp. 254-77
White, *Alchemical Body*, pp. 184-217, 263-82
_____, *Kiss of the Yoginī*, pp. 67-122
- June 1 Tantric Transactions and Transformations
- Donaldson, "Erotic Rituals on Orissan Temples"
Finn, *Kulacūdāmaṇi*, pp. 83-147
Törzsök, *Doctrine*, pp. 121-42, 146-48, 165-81
White, *Alchemical Body*, pp. 171-83, 303-26
_____, *Kiss of the Yoginī*, pp. 196-218
_____, *Sinister Yogis*, pp. 194-97